



Wooded forest,
USFWS

A Small Refuge on a Big Lake

Imagine a place where the solitude of the Northwoods invites visitors to walk among the tall trees, meandering creeks and pockets of intricate wetlands. Discover different types of life around every bend and under every plant. Follow a creek's path through a variety of scenic transitions as your journey down the creek brings you closer to its mouth. The trees start to give way to seas of sedges and rushes. The steep creek banks recede into massive, spongy blankets of smaller plants covering the saturated ground. Water and plants continue to merge, like fringe on a blanket, creating calm bays before reaching rougher water of Lake Superior. This is Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge.



Lake shoreline
WI Division of Tourism

This diversity of habitat provides sanctuary for an abundance of wildlife found along the south shore of Lake Superior. Forested and upland areas provide homes for many animals such as birds, deer, bear, and even creatures as small as ants. Creeks and coastal wetlands provide resting and feeding areas for migratory birds as well as homes for many other nesting birds, fish, insects, reptiles, and amphibians. Eventually, the refuge will consist of 540 acres, ensuring valuable protection of Lake Superior tributaries and this great lake that fish, wildlife and people depend on.

Whittlesey Creek, K. Goodwin, USFWS



Wildlife Viewing Tips

- Early morning and dusk are the best times to view wildlife.
- Use binoculars or a spotting scope.
- Use field guides.
- Move quietly and slowly.
- Bring a camera or field journal.

Kayaking, c. Seago



Whittlesey Creek is for People, Too!

All management activities conducted at Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge, including restoration, public use, monitoring and research, are designed to provide public participation and to teach and encourage environmental stewardship.

Public Use at Whittlesey

Although wildlife comes first, the refuge offers many wildlife-dependent activities, including:

- wildlife observation,
- wildlife photography,
- environmental education,
- environmental interpretation,
- hunting,*
- fishing,*
- hiking,
- canoeing,
- kayaking and
- snow-shoeing.

*Consult refuge staff for regulations and open areas. State and federal regulations also apply.

Photos from top:

White-tailed deer, R. McCune

Canada goose, J. Mattsson, USFWS

Black bear, D. Breneman

Canvasback, J. Mattsson, USFWS

Muskrat, ©S. Cummings